

**MADISON COUNTY
JUDICIARY COMMITTEE**

Friday, July 2, 2021

PRESENT: M. Walters, G. Glasper, J. Goggin, M. Babcock, H. Mueller-Jones, L. Dalton
ABSENT: None.
OTHERS: T. Haine, M. Copeland, T. McRae, K. Tharp, J. Wiesehan, B. Mudge. C. Cohan, M. Davis, A. Carruthers, M. Madison, C. Guy

All members present approved the minutes from the June 2021 meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

None.

CHILD ADVOCACY CENTER:

C. Cohan reported things were going well at the Center and they have seen a 30% increase in interviews. She also reported it is grant season.

CIRCUIT CLERK:

T. McRae reported they have received results of a clean Transition Audit. He also spoke about upgrading the traffic triage system in the upcoming months.

CIRCUIT COURT:

Chief Judge Mudge reported the Supreme Court gave Chief Judges the authority to further relax covid restrictions, specifically social distancing. Chief Judge said we could expect to see an order next week, which will return things back to the way they were prior to the pandemic. Chief Judge went on to speak about several trials (past and future), and how they are to be conducted. The fully vaccinated jurors are permitted to serve without masks, while the unvaccinated jurors must continue wearing them. Chief Judge gave several shout outs and then presented the Purchase Request for the Law Library.

DETENTION HOME:

J. Wiesehan presented the Detention Home Population numbers:

In County Average	18
Out of County Average	0
Average Daily Female	4
Average Daily Male	13
Highest Daily Population	24

Ms. Wiesehan also reported the inspection by the Department of Juvenile Justice passed with flying colors and will provide a report next month.

PROBATION:

J. Wiesehan reported there are 3,145 adults on probation and 187 juveniles.

PUBLIC DEFENDER:

M. Copeland reported the Public Defender's Office continues to be very busy.

SHERIFF/JAIL POPULATION:

Captain Tharp reported they had upwards of 300 inmates in the jail as of today. There are 45 inmates being held for the Department of Corrections, along with 3 females awaiting transfer to Logan.

STATE'S ATTORNEY:

None.

PURCHASE REQUESTS:

The following Purchase Requests were presented and discussed:

1. **Circuit Clerk:** Experian – Pro Plug and Go Software License to 05/31/2022, Pro Server Software License to 05/31/2022. The cost is \$5,352.91.
2. **Law Library:** Thomson Reuters – West – Law Library Plan Charges, Subscription Product Charges (Updates to Legal Reference Books). The cost is \$6,438.63.

Mr. Babcock moved, seconded by Ms. Mueller-Jones to approve the Purchase Requests as presented. The ayes and nays being called on the motion to approve resulted in a vote as follows: AYES: G. Glasper, J. Goggin, M. Babcock, H. Mueller-Jones, L. Dalton NAYS: None. **MOTION CARRIED.**

Mr. Babcock moved, seconded by Mr. Goggin to approve the bills for the month. The ayes and nays being called on the motion to approve resulted in a vote as follows: AYES: G. Glasper, J. Goggin, M. Babcock, H. Mueller-Jones, L. Dalton NAYS: None. **MOTION CARRIED.**

PURCHASE RESOLUTIONS:

The following Purchase Resolution were submitted and discussed:

1. **Sheriff:** Resolution to Purchase Maintenance Renewal for the Madison County Starcom 21 Radio System and Dispatch Center for the Madison County Sheriff's Office. The cost is \$68,076.00.

Ms. Glasper moved, seconded by Ms. Dalton to approve the Purchase Resolution as presented. The ayes and nays being called on the motion to approve resulted in a vote as follows: AYES: G. Glasper, J. Goggin, M. Babcock, H. Mueller-Jones, L. Dalton NAYS: None. **MOTION CARRIED.**

*The Resolution for Additional Funding for the State's Attorney's Office was pulled.

*The Resolution for Additional Funding for the Public Defender's Office was pulled.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Discussion was held about the Step-Up Plan. The board members took turns voicing their questions and concerns. The main concerns of the board members were cost and logistics. It was suggested to reach out to a county that already has the Step-Up Plan in place, as well as improving resources the county already has. It was noted that it would be beneficial to have stakeholders meet on the best ways to move forward.

NEW BUSINESS:

In-depth discussion took place regarding additional funding for the State's Attorney and Public Defender Offices. T. Haine explained the resolutions regarding additional funding for the two offices was pulled due to the possibility of being able to use ARPA funds. T. Haine spoke about the need for countywide license plate readers (LPRs), which will include 46 readers throughout Madison County at key intersections and highways. He explained these readers would allow law enforcement agencies to know when individuals with warrants or individuals known to be involved with law enforcement investigations are in Madison County and/or where they are traveling. LPRs are not red light cameras. The data will be kept for 90 days and is meant to be a proactive tool to keep Madison County safe. The project will cost approximately \$1M and will hopefully be paid for with ARPA funds.

Mr. Haine went on to say that from 2010 to 2019, there have been just under a 40% increase in felony filings, along with a net decrease in felony prosecutors in Madison County. He said his office has an unreasonable number (450-550) of felonies per felony attorney. Currently there are 6,200 outstanding felony cases. Mr. Haine is asking the board to fund 6 new felony attorneys, 2 new violent crimes unit attorneys, 1 post-conviction specialist, as well as 2 support staff. This proposal would have a 22% office increase. Brief discussion about office space, presenting this proposal to the full county board, and ARPA guidelines was held.

M. Copeland said when she took over the Public Defender's Office 8 months ago, her budget was already \$30k in the hole on salaries. Ms. Copeland is asking for \$30k plus extra to put back into her salary budget and explained why it's important to offer competitive salaries for competent attorneys. Ms. Copeland said she believes it would take 3 additional attorneys for her clients to receive quality legal representation. Ms. Copeland explained that 2 of the new attorney's would be low level entry attorneys which would allow her to create a Misdemeanor Division. There are currently 700 misdemeanor clients, which often includes up to 5 misdemeanor offenses each, being covered by felony attorneys. The ADA recommends that defense attorneys carry not more than 150 felony clients. The third attorney would handle post-conviction matters. She explains that her proposal also includes a one-time construction cost to create office space for her additional attorneys.

Both Mr. Haine and Ms. Copeland indicated that the need for additional funding right now is due to the covid crunch.

The Circuit Clerk would need additional staff and the Circuit Court, at a minimum, would need additional special public defenders.

*Please refer to the audio for details.

Mr. Goggin moved, seconded by Mr. Babcock to adjourn the meeting. **MOTION CARRIED.**

/mds